

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

T-03 NIC-01 OMB-01 IO-12 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /120 W

----- 037312

R 121741 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5293

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP, CH, TW

SUBJECT: GOS RELATIONS WITH PRC: BACKGROUND AND REACTION

REF MADRID 1228

1. CLOSELY FOLLOWING AND RELATED TO DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE PRC' S ENTRY INTO THE UN IN LATE 1971, PRESIDENT NIXON' S VISIT TO PEKING, AND THE PROGRESSIVE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRC DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, SPANISH-CHINESE CONTACTS HAVE DEVELOPED IN A PARALLEL MANNER, LEADING TO LAST SATURDAY' S AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

2. IN THE 1971 UN CONTEST OVER CHINESE MEMBERSHIP, SPAIN SUPPORTED THE US ON THE IMPORTANT QUESTION RESOLUTION, BUT WHEN THIS WAS DEFEATED DID NOT OPPOSE THE ALBANIAN RESOLUTION. SOON AFTER, THE GOS REASSIGNED TO KENYA THE AMBASSADOR IT HAD NAMED TO FILL A VACANCY EXISTING IN TAIPEI. WHEN THE GOS LATER ESTABLISHED A CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONG KONG AND SENT A NEW CHARGE TO TAIPEI WITHOUT FILLING THE AMBASSADORIAL VACANCY

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IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT GOS WAS KEEPING ITS OPTIONS OPEN FOR POSSIBLE REASSESSMENT OF ITS CHINA POLICY (SEE MADRID 936, 1972). SOON AFTER, PRC DEL AT UN INVITED FONMIN LOPEZ BRAVO TO A RECEPTION OCT 2, 72, AND THE SPANISH PRESS IN FOLLOWING WEEKS REPORTED EXTENSIVE PRC- GOS OFFICIAL CONTACTS IN HONG KONG ON WAYS OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS. REPORTS WERE FOLLOWED BY OTHER PRESS REPORTS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE CHINESE VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD INVITED LOPEZ BRAVO TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHINA. PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOS- PRC RELATIONS WAS IN ALL PROBABILITY STEPPED UP IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT RAPID MOVEMENT IN THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN US AND PRC.

3. SPANISH REACTION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC HAS BEEN ALMOST UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE. THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT NEWSPAPER ARIBA EDITORIALIZED THAT THE MEASURE WAS " NORMAL" IN THE PRESENT WORLD CONTEXT. CITING THE ESTRADA DOCTRINE, THE PAPER PRAISED THE MEASURE AS BENEFICIAL TO BOTH COUNTRIES WHILE LEAVING ASIDE ANY INDICATION OF MUTUAL APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF RESPECTIVE REGIMES. THE RIGHT- CATHOLIC YA RECALLED THAT CHIANG' S REGIME FAILED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GOS UNTIL AFTER IT WAS EXPELLED FROM THE MAINLAND AND ISOLATED ON TAIWAN. THE PAPER PRAISED THE " REALISM" OF MADRID- PEKING TIES AND THE UTILITY OF ALIGNING SPAIN' S FOREIGN POLICY WITH THAT OF THE MAJORITY OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. MADRID' S LEADING DAILY ABC NOTED THAT GOS ESTABLISHMENT OF PRC TIES CONTINUED THE SAME POLICY THAT LED TO RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GDR. IT ADDED THAT A CONTINUATION OF THIS DIPLOMATIC DEPARTMENT BY SPAIN WOULD INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HER FOREIGN POLICY.

4. JOAQUIN BAU, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, CONSIDERED THE AGREEMENT " NECESSARY AND SO CORRECT". F. HERRERO TEJEDOR, CHIEF ATTORNEY FOR THE SUPREME COURT, SAID HE FAVORED RELATIONS WITH ALL PEOPLES, BUT ALSO " THE FIRM MAINTENANCE OF OUR OWN POLITICAL SYSTEM".

5. NUEVO DIARIO, WHICH HAS PARTICULARLY CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH BOTH THE MFA AND THE PRESIDENCY, NOTED THAT SPAIN' S CAPACITY FOR DIPLOMATIC MANEUVER WAS GREATLY INCREASED. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS FAR AS RELATIONS WITH THE GOS ARE CONCERNED, THE USSR

NOW FINDS ITSELF BETWEEN CHINA AND THE PRC. SIMILARLY, MAO HAS ADVANCED FURTHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO WHOSE "PHANTASMAGORIC OFFICIAL ATTITUDE WOULD HAVE TO BE CALLED GROTESQUE IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE TIES THAT BIND US TO THE MEXICAN PEOPLE".

6. ROC AMB YU CHI HSUEH, OFFICIALLY INFORMED MARCH 10 BY MFA DIRGEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, TOLD PRESS HE WAS "VERY SORRY" TO HEAR GOS HAD ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH "MAO REGIME". HE ADDED HIS OPINION THAT COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND TAIWAN "WOULD CONTINUE THEIR NORMAL DEVELOPMENT".

7. COMMENT: PRESS COMMENTS ARE CHARACTERIZED BY A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TRADITIONAL SPANISH "TRIUNFALISMO". THIS IS PROBABLY RELATED TO AN ATTITUDE EXPRESSED BY MANY SPANISH OFFICIALS TO THE EFFECT THAT ONCE SPAIN HAS SUCCEEDED IN ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MOST OF THE COMMUNIST NATIONS HER FURTHER ACCEPTANCE BY THE WESTERN EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES WILL SOMEHOW BE FACILITATED.
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